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# On clique convergence of graphs

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## Abstract

Let  $G$  be a graph and  $\mathcal{K}_G$  be the set of all cliques of  $G$ , then the clique graph of  $G$  denoted by  $K(G)$  is the graph with vertex set  $\mathcal{K}_G$  and two elements  $Q_i, Q_j \in \mathcal{K}_G$  form an edge if and only if  $Q_i \cap Q_j \neq \emptyset$ . Iterated clique graphs are defined by  $K^0(G) = G$ , and  $K^n(G) = K(K^{n-1}(G))$  for  $n > 0$ . In this paper we prove a necessary and sufficient condition for a clique graph  $K(G)$  to be complete when  $G = G_1 + G_2$ , give a partial characterization for clique divergence of the join of graphs and prove that if  $G_1, G_2$  are Clique-Helly graphs different from  $K_1$  and  $G = G_1 \square G_2$ , then  $K^2(G) = G$ .

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**Keywords:** Maximal clique; Clique graph; Graph operator

## 1. Introduction

Given a simple graph  $G = (V, E)$ , not necessarily finite, a clique in  $G$  is a maximal complete subgraph in  $G$ . Let  $G$  be a graph and  $\mathcal{K}_G$  be the set of all cliques of  $G$ , then the clique graph operator is denoted by  $K$  and the clique graph of  $G$  is denoted by  $K(G)$ , where  $K(G)$  is the graph with vertex set  $\mathcal{K}_G$  and two elements  $Q_i, Q_j \in \mathcal{K}_G$  form an edge if and only if  $Q_i \cap Q_j \neq \emptyset$ . Clique graph was introduced by Hamelink in 1968 [1]. Iterated clique graphs are defined by  $K^0(G) = G$ , and  $K^n(G) = K(K^{n-1}(G))$  for  $n > 0$  (see [2–4]).

**Definition 1.1.** A graph  $G$  is said to be  $K$ -periodic if there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that  $G \cong K^n(G)$  and the least such integer is called the  $K$ -periodicity of  $G$ , denoted  $K\text{-per}(G)$ .

**Definition 1.2.** A graph  $G$  is said to be  $K$ -Convergent if  $\{K^n(G) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is finite, otherwise it is  $K$ -Divergent (see [5]).

**Definition 1.3.** A graph  $H$  is said to be  $K$ -root of a graph  $G$  if  $K(H) = G$ .

If  $G$  is a clique graph then one can observe that, the set of all  $K$ -roots of  $G$  is either empty or infinite.

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**Definition 1.4** ([3]). A graph  $G$  is a Clique-Helly Graph if the set of cliques has the Helly-Property. That is, for every family of pairwise intersecting cliques of the graph, the total intersection of all these cliques should be non-empty also.

**Definition 1.5.** Let  $G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$ ,  $G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$  be the two graphs. Then their join  $G_1 + G_2$  is obtained by adding all possible edges between the vertices of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ .

**Definition 1.6.** The Cartesian product of two graphs  $G$  and  $H$ , denoted  $G \square H$ , is a graph with vertex set  $V(G \square H) = V(G) \times V(H)$ , i.e., the set  $\{(g, h) | g \in G, h \in H\}$ . The edge set of  $G \square H$  consists of all pairs  $[(g_1, h_1), (g_2, h_2)]$  of vertices with  $[g_1, g_2] \in E(G)$  and  $h_1 = h_2$ , or  $g_1 = g_2$  and  $[h_1, h_2] \in E(H)$  (see [6] page no 3).

## 2. Results

One can observe that the clique graph of a complete graph and star graph are always complete. Let  $G$  be a graph with  $n$  vertices and having a vertex of degree  $n - 1$ , then the clique graph of  $G$  is also complete.

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $G_1, G_2$  be two graphs and  $G = G_1 + G_2$ , then  $X$  is a clique in  $G_1$  and  $Y$  is a clique in  $G_2$  if and only if  $X + Y$  is a clique in  $G_1 + G_2$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G = G_1 + G_2$  and  $X$  be a clique in  $G_1$  and  $Y$  be a clique in  $G_2$ . Suppose that  $X + Y$  is not a maximal complete subgraph in  $G_1 + G_2$ , then there is a maximal complete subgraph (clique)  $Q$  in  $G_1 + G_2$  such that  $X + Y$  is a proper subgraph of  $Q$ . Since  $X + Y$  is a proper subgraph of  $Q$ , there is a vertex  $v$  in  $Q$  which is not in  $X + Y$  and  $v$  is adjacent to every vertex of  $X + Y$ , then by the definition of  $G_1 + G_2$ ,  $v$  should be in either  $G_1$  or  $G_2$ . Suppose  $v$  is in  $G_1$ , then the induced subgraph of  $V(X) + \{v\}$  is complete in  $G_1$ , which is a contradiction as  $X$  is maximal. Therefore  $X + Y$  is the maximal complete subgraph (clique) in  $G_1 + G_2$ .

Conversely, let  $Q$  is a clique in  $G_1 + G_2$ . Suppose that  $Q \neq X + Y$  where  $X$  is a clique in  $G_1$  and  $Y$  is a clique in  $G_2$ . If  $Q \cap G_1 = \emptyset$ , then  $Q$  is a subgraph of  $G_2$ . This implies that  $Q$  is a clique in  $G_2$  as  $Q$  is a clique in  $G$ . Let  $v$  be a vertex of  $G_1$ . Then by the definition of  $G_1 + G_2$ , one can observe that the induced subgraph of  $V(Q) \cup \{v\}$  is complete in  $G$ , which is a contradiction as  $Q$  is a maximal complete subgraph. Therefore  $Q \cap G_1 \neq \emptyset$ . Similarly we can prove that  $Q \cap G_2 \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $X$  be the induced subgraph of  $G$  with vertex set  $V(Q) \cap V(G_1)$  and  $Y$  be the induced subgraph of  $G$  with vertex set  $V(Q) \cap V(G_2)$ , then  $Q = X + Y$ . Since  $Q$  is a maximal complete subgraph of  $G$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$  should be maximal complete subgraphs in  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  respectively. Otherwise, if  $X$  is not a maximal complete subgraph in  $G_1$  then there is a maximal complete subgraph  $X'$  in  $G_1$  such that  $X$  is subgraph of  $X'$ , and this implies that  $X + Y$  is a subgraph of  $X' + Y$  and  $X' + Y$  is complete, which is a contradiction. Therefore  $X$  and  $Y$  are maximal complete subgraphs (cliques) in  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  respectively.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.2.** Let  $G_1, G_2$  be two graphs and  $G = G_1 + G_2$ . If  $n, m$  are the number of cliques in  $G_1, G_2$  respectively, then  $G$  has  $nm$  cliques.

**Proof.** Let  $G = G_1 + G_2$ ,  $\mathcal{K}_{G_1} = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$  be the set of all cliques of  $G_1$  and  $\mathcal{K}_{G_2} = \{Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_m\}$  be the set of all cliques of  $G_2$ . Then by Theorem 2.1 it follows that  $\mathcal{K}_G = \{X_i + Y_j : 1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m\}$  is the set of all cliques of  $G$ . Since  $G_1$  has  $n$ ,  $G_2$  has  $m$  number of cliques,  $G_1 + G_2$  has  $nm$  number of cliques.  $\square$

In the following result we give a necessary and sufficient condition for a clique graph  $K(G)$  to be complete when  $G = G_1 + G_2$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $G_1, G_2$  be two graphs. If  $G = G_1 + G_2$ , then  $K(G)$  is complete if and only if either  $K(G_1)$  is complete or  $K(G_2)$  is complete.

**Proof.** Let  $G = G_1 + G_2$  and  $K(G)$  be complete. Suppose that neither  $K(G_1)$  nor  $K(G_2)$  is complete, then there exist two cliques  $X, X'$  in  $G_1$  and two cliques  $Y, Y'$  in  $G_2$  such that  $X \cap X' = \emptyset$  and  $Y \cap Y' = \emptyset$ . By Theorem 2.1 it follows that  $X + Y, X' + Y'$  are cliques in  $G$ . Since  $X \cap X'$  and  $Y \cap Y'$  are empty, it follows that  $\{X + Y\} \cap \{X' + Y'\} = \emptyset$ , which is a contradiction as  $K(G)$  is complete.

Conversely, suppose that  $K(G_1)$  is complete and  $\mathcal{K}_{G_1} = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$ ,  $\mathcal{K}_{G_2} = \{Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_m\}$ . By Corollary 2.2, it follows that  $G$  has exactly  $nm$  number of cliques. Let  $\mathcal{K}_G = \{Q_{ij} : Q_{ij} = X_i + Y_j \text{ for } i =$

$1, 2, \dots, n; j = 1, 2, \dots, m\}$  be the set of all cliques of  $G$ . Then  $Q$  is the vertex set of  $K(G)$ . Arranging the elements of  $\mathcal{K}_G$  in the matrix form  $M = [m_{ij}]$  where  $m_{ij} = Q_{ij}$ , we have

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} Q_{11} & Q_{12} & Q_{13} & \cdots & Q_{1m} \\ Q_{21} & Q_{22} & Q_{23} & \cdots & Q_{2m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ Q_{n1} & Q_{n2} & Q_{n3} & \cdots & Q_{nm} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let  $Q_{ij}, Q_{kl}$  be any two elements in  $M$ . Since  $Q_{ij} = X_i + Y_j, Q_{kl} = X_k + Y_l$ , it follows that  $X_i, X_k$  are cliques in  $G_1$ . Since  $K(G_1)$  is complete,  $X_i \cap X_k \neq \emptyset$  and then  $Q_{ij} \cap Q_{kl} \neq \emptyset$ . Therefore  $Q_{ij}, Q_{kl}$  are adjacent in  $K(G)$ . Hence  $K(G)$  is complete.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.4.** Let  $G_1, G_2$  be two graphs and  $G = G_1 + G_2$ . If  $K(G_1), K(G_2)$  are not complete, then for every clique in  $K(G_1)$  there is a clique in  $K(G)$  and for every clique in  $K(G_2)$  there is a clique in  $K(G)$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G = G_1 + G_2$  be a graph such that  $K(G_1)$  and  $K(G_2)$  are not complete. Let  $V(K(G_1)) = \{X_i : X_i \text{ is a clique in } G_1, 1 \leq i \leq n\}$  and  $V(K(G_2)) = \{Y_j : Y_j \text{ is a clique in } G_2, 1 \leq j \leq m\}$ , then by Theorem 2.1 it follows that  $V(K(G)) = \{X_i + Y_j : 1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m\}$ . Let  $Q$  be a clique of size  $l$  in  $K(G_1)$  and  $V(Q) = \{X_{Q_1}, X_{Q_2}, \dots, X_{Q_l}\}$  where  $X_{Q_i}$  is a clique in  $G_1$  for  $1 \leq i \leq l$ . Let  $A_Q = \{X_{Q_i} + Y_j : 1 \leq i \leq l, 1 \leq j \leq m\}$ . Then clearly  $A_Q$  is subset of  $V(K(G))$ .

Let  $X_{Q_1} + Y_1, X_{Q_2} + Y_2$  be two elements in  $A_Q$ . Since  $X_{Q_1}, X_{Q_2}$  are the vertices of the clique  $Q$  of  $K(G_1)$ , we have  $X_{Q_1} \cap X_{Q_2} \neq \emptyset$ . Therefore  $\{X_{Q_1} + Y_1\} \cap \{X_{Q_2} + Y_2\} \neq \emptyset$ . Hence the intersection of any two elements in  $A_Q$  is nonempty. Then, it follows that the elements of  $A_Q$  form a complete subgraph in  $K(G)$ . Suppose that it is not a maximal complete subgraph in  $K(G)$ . Then there is a vertex, say  $X_1 + Y_1$  in  $K(G)$  which is not in  $A_Q$  and  $X_1 + Y_1$  is adjacent with every vertex of  $A_Q$ . Since  $K(G_2)$  is not complete there exists a vertex say  $Y_2$  in  $K(G_2)$  such that  $Y_2$  is not adjacent to  $Y_1$  in  $K(G_2)$ . Since  $Q$  is a clique in  $K(G_1)$  and  $K(G_1)$  is not complete, there is a vertex say  $X_{Q_1}$  in  $V(Q)$  which is not adjacent to  $X_1$  in  $K(G_1)$ . By the definition of  $A_Q$  one can see that  $X_{Q_1} + Y_2$  is an element of  $A_Q$ . Therefore  $\{X_{Q_1} + Y_2\} \cap \{X_1 + Y_1\} = \emptyset$ , which is a contradiction. Thus  $A_Q$  is a maximal complete subgraph in  $K(G)$ . Hence for every clique in  $K(G_1)$  there is a clique in  $K(G)$ .

On similar lines we can also prove that for every clique in  $K(G_2)$ , there is a clique in  $K(G)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.5.** Let  $G_1, G_2$  be two graphs and  $G = G_1 + G_2$ . If  $K(G_1), K(G_2)$  are not complete, then the number of cliques in  $K(G)$  is at least the sum of the number of cliques in  $K(G_1)$  and  $K(G_2)$ .

**Theorem 2.6.** Let  $G_1, G_2$  be two graphs and  $G = G_1 + G_2$ . If  $K(G_1), K(G_2)$  are not complete, then  $K^2(G_1) + K^2(G_2)$  is an induced subgraph of  $K^2(G)$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G = G_1 + G_2$  be a graph such that  $K(G_1)$  and  $K(G_2)$  are not complete. Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  be the cliques of  $K(G_1)$ , and  $Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_m$  be the cliques of  $K(G_2)$ . By Lemma 2.4 it follows that for every clique  $X_i$  of  $K(G_1)$  there is a clique  $X'_i$  in  $K(G)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$  and for every clique  $Y_j$  of  $K(G_2)$  there is a clique  $Y'_j$  in  $K(G)$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq m$ .

Claim 1:  $X_i \cap X_j \neq \emptyset$  in  $K(G_1)$  if and only if  $X'_i \cap X'_j \neq \emptyset$  in  $K(G)$  for  $i \neq j$ .

Let  $X_i, X_j$  be two cliques in  $K(G_1)$  and  $X_i \cap X_j \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $v$  be a vertex in  $X_i \cap X_j$ . By Lemma 2.4 it follows that if  $v$  is a vertex in the clique  $X_i$  in  $K(G_1)$ , then for any vertex  $u$  in  $K(G_2)$ ,  $v + u$  is a vertex in the clique  $X'_i$  in  $K(G)$  corresponding to the clique  $X_i$  in  $K(G_1)$ . Therefore  $v + u$  is a vertex in  $X'_i \cap X'_j$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $X'_i, X'_j$  be two cliques in  $K(G)$  and  $X'_i \cap X'_j \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $w$  be a vertex in  $X'_i \cap X'_j$ . By Theorem 2.1 it follows that  $w = v + u$ , where  $v$  is a vertex of  $K(G_1)$  and  $u$  is a vertex of  $K(G_2)$ . Since  $w = v + u$  is a vertex of the clique  $X'_i$  in  $K(G)$ , it follows that  $v$  is a vertex of the clique  $X_i$  in  $K(G_1)$ . Similarly  $v$  is a vertex of the clique  $X_j$  in  $K(G_1)$ . Therefore  $v$  is in  $X_i \cap X_j$ .

Similarly we can prove that,  $Y_i \cap Y_j \neq \emptyset$  in  $K(G_2)$  if and only if  $Y'_i \cap Y'_j \neq \emptyset$  in  $K(G)$  for  $i \neq j$ .

Claim 2:  $X'_i \cap Y'_j \neq \emptyset$  in  $K(G)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m$ .

Let  $X'_i, Y'_j$  be two cliques in  $K(G)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m$  and  $X_i, Y_j$  are the cliques in  $K(G_1), K(G_2)$  corresponding to the maximal cliques  $X'_i, Y'_j$  in  $K(G)$  respectively. Let  $v$  be a vertex in  $X_i$  and  $u$  be a vertex in  $Y_j$ , then by Lemma 2.4  $v + u$  be the vertex in  $X'_i$  as well as in  $Y'_j$ . Therefore  $X'_i \cap Y'_j \neq \emptyset$ .

By claims 1 and 2 it follows that  $K^2(G_1) + K^2(G_2)$  is an induced subgraph of  $K^2(G)$ .  $\square$

**Note:** Let  $G_1, G_2$  be two graphs and  $G = G_1 + G_2$ . If  $G$  is  $K$ -divergent, then  $G_1, G_2$  don't need to be  $K$ -divergent.

**Example 2.7.** If  $H$  is a graph consisting of just two nonadjacent vertices and we define for every  $n > 1$  the graph  $J_n = \underbrace{(((H + H) + H) + \cdots) + H}_{n \text{ times}}$ , it turns out that  $K(J_n) = J_{2n-1}$ . Suppose  $G_1 = J_2 = C_4, G_2 = H$  then

$G_1 + G_2 = J_3$  and  $K(G_1 + G_2) = J_4$ . Therefore  $K^2(G_1 + G_2) = J_8$ . Which implies that  $G_1 + G_2$  is  $K$ -divergent. But  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are not  $K$ -divergent.

### 2.1. Observations

Let  $G = G_1 + G_2$  be a graph and  $\mathcal{K}_{G_1} = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$  be the set of all cliques of  $G_1$  and  $\mathcal{K}_{G_2} = \{Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_m\}$  be the set of all cliques of  $G_2$ . By Theorem 2.1, it follows that  $\mathcal{K}_G = \{Q_{ij} = X_i + Y_j : 1 \leq i \leq n; 1 \leq j \leq m\}$  is the set of all cliques of  $G$ . Let  $v_{ij}$  be the vertex of  $K(G)$  corresponding to the clique  $Q_{ij}$  of  $G$ . Arrange the vertices of  $K(G)$  as a matrix  $M = [m_{ij}]$ , where  $m_{ij} = v_{ij}$ , i.e.,

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} v_{11} & v_{12} & v_{13} & \cdots & v_{1m} \\ v_{21} & v_{22} & v_{23} & \cdots & v_{2m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ v_{n1} & v_{n2} & v_{n3} & \cdots & v_{nm} \end{pmatrix}.$$

From the above matrix one can observe that the  $i$ th row corresponds to the clique  $X_i$  of  $G_1$  and  $j$ th column corresponds to the clique  $Y_j$  of  $G_2$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m$ .

Claim 1: Any two elements in the same row or same column in  $M$  are adjacent in  $K(G)$ .

Let  $Q_{ij}, Q_{ik}$  be any two elements in the  $i$ th row. Since  $Q_{ij} = X_i + Y_j, Q_{ik} = X_i + Y_k, Q_{ij} \cap Q_{ik} = X_i \neq \emptyset$ . Therefore  $Q_{ij}, Q_{ik}$  are adjacent in  $K(G)$ . Similarly any two elements in the same column are adjacent.

Claim 2: If  $X_i \cap X_j \neq \emptyset$ , then every vertex of  $i$ th row is adjacent to every vertex of  $j$ th row,  $1 \leq i \neq j \leq n$ .

Let  $X_i \cap X_j \neq \emptyset$  and  $v_{ik}, v_{jl}$  be any two elements of  $i$ th and  $j$ th rows respectively in  $M$ . Since  $Q_{ik} = X_i + Y_k, Q_{jl} = X_j + Y_l$  are the cliques of  $G$  corresponding to the vertices  $v_{ik}, v_{jl}$  of  $K(G)$  and  $X_i \cap X_j \neq \emptyset$ , we have  $Q_{ik} \cap Q_{jl} \neq \emptyset$ . Therefore  $v_{ik}, v_{jl}$  are adjacent in  $K(G)$ .

Similarly if  $Y_i \cap Y_j \neq \emptyset$ , then every vertex of  $i$ th column is adjacent to every vertex of  $j$ th column,  $1 \leq i \neq j \leq m$ .

One can see that the following observations will follow from Claim 1 and Claim 2.

1. If  $G = G_1 + G_2$ , then  $K(G)$  is Hamiltonian.
2. If  $G = G_1 + G_2$ , then  $K(G)$  is planar if it satisfies one of the following:
  - (i) The number of cliques in  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  is less than 3.
  - (ii) If the number of cliques in  $G_1$  is 3, then either  $G_2$  is a complete graph or  $G_2$  has exactly two cliques and  $K(G_1) = \overline{K_3}, K(G_2) = \overline{K_2}$ .
  - (iii) If the number of cliques in  $G_1$  is 4, then  $G_2$  is a complete graph.
3. If  $G = G_1 + G_2$  and  $n, m$  are the number of cliques in  $G_1, G_2$ , then the degree of any vertex in  $K(G)$  is  $(n + m - 2) + k(n - 1) + l(m - 1) - kl, 0 \leq k < m$  and  $0 \leq l < n$ .
4. Let  $G_1, G_2$  be two graphs and  $G = G_1 + G_2$ ,
  - (i) If both  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  have odd number of cliques, then  $K(G)$  is Eulerian if one of  $K(G_1)$  or  $K(G_2)$  is Eulerian.
  - (ii) If both  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  have even number of cliques, then  $K(G)$  is Eulerian if  $K(G_1), K(G_2)$  are Eulerian.
  - (iii) If  $G_1$  has even number of cliques and  $G_2$  has odd number of cliques, then  $K(G)$  is Eulerian if degree of each vertex in  $K(G_2)$  is odd and  $K(G_1)$  is Eulerian.

### 3. Cartesian product of graphs

In this section we are considering  $G_1, G_2$  be connected graphs only.

**Theorem 3.1.** If  $G_1, G_2$  are Clique-Helly graphs different from  $K_1$  and  $G = G_1 \square G_2$ , then  $K^2(G) = G$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G_1, G_2$  be Clique-Helly graphs different from  $K_1$  and  $G = G_1 \square G_2$ . Let  $V(G_1) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n_1}\}$  and  $V(G_2) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n_2}\}$ , then by the definition of  $G_1 \square G_2$ , it follows that  $V(G) = \{V_{ij} : V_{ij} = (v_i, u_j) \text{ where } 1 \leq i \leq n_1, 1 \leq j \leq n_2\}$ ,  $|V(G)| = n_1 n_2$ . Also,  $G$  has  $n_2$  copies of  $G_1$  (say,  $G_1^1, G_1^2, \dots, G_1^{n_2}$ ) which are vertex

disjoint induced subgraphs and  $n_1$  copies of  $G_2$  (say,  $G_2^1, G_2^2, \dots, G_2^{n_1}$ ) which are vertex disjoint induced subgraphs. Clearly one can observe that  $V(G_2^i) \cap V(G_1^j) = V_{ij}$ ,  $V_{ij}$  is not in  $V(G_2^n)$  and  $V(G_1^m)$  for  $n \neq i, m \neq j$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n_1, 1 \leq j \leq n_2$ . As  $G = G_1 \square G_2$ , we can see that every clique in  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are cliques in  $G$ . Let  $\mathcal{K}_{G_1} = \{Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_{l_1}\}$  and  $\mathcal{K}_{G_2} = \{P_1, P_2, \dots, P_{l_2}\}$ , then

$$\mathcal{K}_G = \{Q_1^1, Q_2^1, \dots, Q_{l_1}^1, Q_1^2, Q_2^2, \dots, Q_{l_1}^2, \dots, Q_1^{n_1}, Q_2^{n_1}, \dots, Q_{l_1}^{n_1}, P_1^1, P_2^1, \dots, P_{l_2}^1, P_1^2, P_2^2, \dots, P_{l_2}^2, \dots, P_1^{n_1}, P_2^{n_1}, \dots, P_{l_2}^{n_1}\}.$$

Claim 1: For every vertex  $V_{ij}$  in  $G$  there is a clique in  $K(G)$ .

Let  $V_{ij}$  be a vertex in  $G$  for some  $i, j, 1 \leq i \leq n_1, 1 \leq j \leq n_2$ . Define  $A_{ij} = \{Q : V_{ij} \in Q\} \subseteq \mathcal{K}_G$ . Clearly intersection of any two cliques in  $A_{ij}$  is non empty. Therefore the vertices corresponding to these cliques in  $K(G)$  form a complete subgraph in  $K(G)$ . Suppose it is not a maximal complete subgraph in  $K(G)$ , then there exists a vertex  $V$  in  $K(G)$  such that  $V$  is adjacent to all the vertices of  $A_{ij}$ . Let  $Q_V$  be the clique in  $G$  corresponding to the vertex  $V$  in  $K(G)$ . Clearly  $V_{ij}$  is not in  $Q_V$ . Since every clique in  $G$  is either a clique in  $G_1$  or a clique in  $G_2$ , assume that  $Q_V$  is a clique in  $G_1^j$ . Let  $Q$  be a clique in  $G_2^i$  having the vertex  $V_{ij}$ , then  $Q$  is in  $A_{ij}$ . Since  $V(G_2^i) \cap V(G_1^j) = V_{ij}$ ,  $Q$  is a clique in  $G_2^i$  and  $V_{ij} \in V(Q)$  and  $V(Q) \cap V(G_1^j) = V_{ij}$ . Which implies that  $V(Q) \cap (V(G_1^j) \setminus \{V_{ij}\}) = \emptyset$ . Since  $V_{ij}$  is not in  $Q_V$  and  $Q_V$  is a clique in  $G_1^j$ ,  $V(Q_V) \subseteq (V(G_1^j) \setminus \{V_{ij}\})$ . Therefore  $V(Q) \cap V(Q_V) = \emptyset$ , a contradiction to the fact that  $Q_V$  is adjacent to all the vertices of  $A_{ij}$  in  $K(G)$ . Hence the elements of  $A_{ij}$  form a clique in  $K(G)$ .

Claim 2: For any clique  $Q$  in  $K(G)$ , intersection of all the cliques of  $G$  corresponding to the vertices of  $Q$  is non empty and a singleton.

Let  $Q$  be a clique in  $K(G)$  and  $V(Q) = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ . Suppose all  $x_k$ 's are cliques in  $G_1^j$  for some  $j, 1 \leq j \leq n_2$ , then the intersection of all  $x_k$ 's is non empty in  $G$ , where  $x_k \in V(Q)$ , as  $G_1^j$  satisfies Clique-Helly property. Let  $V \in \cap_{x_k \in Q} x_k$ , then  $V$  is in  $G_2^i$  for some  $i, 1 \leq i \leq n_1$ . Let  $P$  be any clique in  $G_2^i$  having a vertex  $V$ , then  $P$  intersects with every element of  $V(Q)$ . Therefore  $V(Q) \cup \{P\}$  forms a complete graph in  $K(G)$ , a contradiction to the assumption that  $Q$  is maximal complete subgraph. Thus the elements of  $Q$  are the cliques of  $G_1$  and cliques of  $G_2$ . Since  $G_1^j$ 's are vertex disjoint and  $G_2^i$ 's are vertex disjoint, any element of  $Q$  is either a clique of  $G_1^j$  or a clique of  $G_2^i$  for fixed  $i, j, 1 \leq i \leq n_1, 1 \leq j \leq n_2$ . Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_l$  be the cliques of  $G_1^j$  and  $x_{l+1}, x_{l+2}, \dots, x_n$  be the cliques of  $G_2^i$ . Since  $V(G_1^j) \cap V(G_2^i) = V_{ij}$ ,  $x_{l_1}$  is a clique of  $G_1^j$ ,  $x_{l_2}$  is a clique of  $G_2^i$  and  $V(x_{l_1}) \cap V(x_{l_2}) \neq \emptyset, 1 \leq l_1 \leq l, l+1 \leq l_2 \leq n, V(x_{l_1}) \cap V(x_{l_2}) = V_{ij}$ . Which implies that  $V_{ij}$  belongs to every  $x_k$  in  $Q$ . Therefore  $\cap_{x_k \in Q} x_k = V_{ij}$ .

As the cliques of  $K(G)$  are the vertices of  $K^2(G)$ , by Claims 1 and 2 one can see that there is a one to one correspondence between the vertices of  $G$  and  $K^2(G)$ .

Claim 3: Let  $U, V$  be any two adjacent vertices in  $G$ . Then the intersection of the cliques in  $K(G)$  corresponding to these vertices is non empty.

Let  $U, V$  be any two adjacent vertices in  $G$  and  $Q_U, Q_V$  be the cliques in  $K(G)$  corresponding to the vertices  $U, V$  in  $G$  respectively. Since there is an edge between  $U, V$  in  $G$ , there exists a clique  $Q$  in  $G$  such that the vertices  $U, V$  are in  $Q$ . By Claims 1 and 2 it follows that the vertices of  $Q_U$  in  $K(G)$  are the cliques of  $G$  having the vertex  $U$  in  $G$ , it is in common. Therefore  $Q$  is in  $V(Q_U)$ . Similarly  $Q$  is in  $V(Q_V)$ . Which implies that  $Q_U \cap Q_V \neq \emptyset$ . Since cliques of  $K(G)$  are the vertices of  $K^2(G)$ , the vertices corresponding to the cliques  $Q_U$  and  $Q_V$  of  $K(G)$  are adjacent in  $K^2(G)$ .

Claim 4: Let  $P, Q$  be any two cliques in  $K(G)$ . If the intersection of  $P$  and  $Q$  is non empty, then the vertices in  $G$  corresponding to these two cliques are adjacent.

Let  $P, Q$  be any two cliques in  $K(G)$ ,  $P \cap Q \neq \emptyset$  and  $U, V$  be the vertices in  $G$  corresponding to the cliques  $P, Q$  of  $K(G)$  respectively. Since  $P \cap Q \neq \emptyset$ , there exists a vertex  $Q_1$  belonging to  $V(P) \cap V(Q)$ . By Claims 1 and 2, one can observe that  $Q_1$  is a clique in  $G$  and  $\cap_{P_i \in V(P)} P_i = U, \cap_{Q_i \in V(Q)} Q_i = V$ . Thus  $U, V$  belongs to  $V(Q_1)$  in  $G$ . Therefore  $U, V$  are adjacent in  $G$ .

By Claims 3 and 4 it follows that, two vertices are adjacent in  $G$  if and only if the corresponding vertices are adjacent  $K^2(G)$ .

Therefore  $K^2(G)$  is the same as  $G$ , if  $G = G_1 \square G_2$  and  $G_1, G_2$  are Clique-Helly graphs such that  $G_1, G_2$  are different from  $K_1$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3.2.** Let  $G_1, G_2$  be two graphs and  $G = G_1 \square G_2$ . If  $G_1, G_2$  are Clique-Helly graphs different from  $K_1$ , then

- i**  $G$  is a *Clique-Helly* graph.
- ii**  $G$  is  $K$ -periodic.
- iii**  $G$  is  $K$ -convergent.

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